

# SOUTH CREAKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Memorial Pavilion on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2022, at 7pm.

Present: Councillors P Abbey (Chair, Parish Council), T Allen, S Baldwin, R Chantree, P Collins, L Goodall, B Sexton, the Clerk, Sarah Harvey and eight parishioners.

The meeting was chaired by the Chair of the Parish Council, Councillor P Abbey.

1. The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting.
2. **Apologies**  
Apologies of absence were received from County Councillor Councillor M Chenery of Horsbrugh, Borough Councillor C Morley and Parish Councillors S Hunt, B Rosen.
3. **Minutes**  
The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021, copies of which had been circulated were approved and signed by the Chair.
4. **Chairman's Annual Report**  
Councillor P Abbey presented the annual report on behalf of the Parish Council.

'At roughly this time last year, Sara Freakley presented her last Chair report before stepping down from the Parish Council; and soon after, with unexpected although pleasant surprise, I was elected to succeed her. At that time our lives were still being significantly challenged with Covid regulations and in some ways they still are.

We have two annual meetings this evening and to avoid any confusion:

This meeting, The Annual Parish Meeting, is a meeting of the people of the Parish (peoples vote); The following Annual Parish Meeting, a meeting of the Parish Councillors, at the start the Chair and Vice-Chair are elected (Councillors vote).

Both meetings are organised by our Parish Clerk, Sarah Harvey.

Before my report, let me introduce your Parish Councillors:

Tim Allen (current vice-Chair), Lorna Goodhall, Susan Baldwin, Richard Chantree, Ben Sexton, Paul Collins, with apologies from Shane Hunt and Bob Rosen. All freely give their time and support, and I can't thank them enough for their help this last year.

## **REPORT**

Since May 2021, the Parish Council have worked hard to ensure that South Creake is kept at its best, by continually monitoring our areas of responsibility and ensuring that Parish public funds are managed and prudently used to best effect.

## **Finance**

Parish finances were carefully recorded by Sarah Harvey (in her role as our Responsible Financial Officer) with reviews at every Parish Council meeting.

Expenditure for 2021/22 was £18,728.62

Income, including the precept set at £16,508 was £20,525.76

Once approved by a Parish Council meeting, accounts will be available on the village website.

This year the precept application was set at £17,728.50.

## **Allotments**

The two allotment sites at Back Street and Leicester Road are fully occupied and we also have a reserve list. We are in the process of renewing the allotment signage to be clearer regarding access. This year has seen the development of a fruit orchard at the Back Street site with a grant being obtained for the tree purchase.

The Parish Council also applied and obtained trees through the Norfolk County Council 'Million Trees for Norfolk' campaign (this was with the support of our County Councillor). The trees have been

planted on the village green (or meadow if you prefer), with 10 fruit trees near the Memorial Pavilion and a small copse of 70 trees planted to commemorate the Queens Platinum Jubilee, which have also been recorded on the Queens Green Canopy (for which the village was awarded a virtual plaque).

### **Flood and infrastructure**

As we all know last year's exceptionally high rainfall and consequent flooding caused serious problems in the centre of the village - in particular the ingress of ground water into the sewerage system. The Parish Council arranged a public Flood Forum (attended by Lord Dannatt, Chair of the Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance) during which Anglian Water stated their objective to survey the sewers. In the last edition of the Creake News (which deserves a mention for keeping our village well informed) the news from Anglian Water is that the sewers have been cleared of 12.7 tonnes of debris, are free from defects and fit-for-purpose with no ground water infiltration. Fortunately, just in case, we still have the Norfolk Resilience Forum one-number to call (0344 800 8013).

### **Highways**

We now have an internet account for reporting highways issues, which has been effective in getting repairs done in a more timely manner.

Good news is that the Traffic Regulation Order that we raised, for the speed limits to be changed, had funding approved in March for work to start in the summer.

### **Open Spaces**

The village now own both redundant BT Kiosks. We have received quotes to have these painted and ready to be used to provide an additional village facility.

The Christmas lights certainly provided an amazing sight, and many complimentary comments were received.

### **Ostrich Inn**

It will also soon be a year since the Ostrich reopened. It has been a vast improvement for the village to have this asset refurbished to such a high standard.

### **Play Area**

The play area and adult gym provide exercise opportunity for young and old alike, and it is good to see both being regularly used.

### **River Burn**

The Norfolk Rivers Trust plan to construct a 'Refugia' alongside the River Burn has been modified to create a Flood Attenuation feature. The initial work has been completed.

The population of ducks continues to raise concern and the Parish Council have designed information signs to be placed on the village green to help promote good practice regarding the feeding of fowl, with additional information regarding the river environment and how to help protect our rare chalk river.

### **And to end**

A public vote of thanks to all involved with our Parish Council for helping me get through this year.'

## **5. County Councillor's Report**

It was noted that the report from the County Councillor M Chenery of Horsbrugh had been made available to the meeting but given the amount of content contained in the report it was agreed these would be posted as an appendix to the minutes on the website.

## **6. Borough Councillor's Report**

Borough Councillor C Morley provided a short report to advise that various grants to support residents and businesses were progressively becoming available and people should regularly check the Borough Council web site. The Councillor Community Support Grant was also continuing in 2022/23 and could offer small sums to local community groups. It was noted that South Creake Tennis Club had received £500 for equipment as an example.

## 7. **South Creake Tennis Club**

Sara Freakly on behalf of the Tennis Club thanked the Parish Council for their donation of £500 that would contribute towards the cost of the replacement of the fencing around the perimeter of the courts. It was noted that £6,000 had already been awarded towards the cause in CIL funding from the Borough Council and that an application to Jack's Lane Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund had also been submitted. The decision regarding the grant would be determined in June.

Membership was reported as currently being on a par with membership at the end of 2021 and that it was likely this would surpass 2021's figure.

It was noted that the grass courts were a fantastic village asset, being one of three grass courts in the vicinity, the others being at Hunstanton and Cromer.

Sara Freakley advised that the Tennis Courts would be holding an Open day alongside the Memorial Pavilion on the 14<sup>th</sup> May.

## 8. **South Creake Charities**

A report was read on behalf of Mrs S Hart (Clerk, South Creake Charities).

'During the last year the Isaac Lane Fuel Charity made a fuel allocation of £100 to 23 eligible households, Total £2300. Money is made available each year to assist pensioners in need within the village of South Creake with help towards their fuel costs and this money is distributed just before Christmas of each year.

The Dorothy Woodhouse Trust has made educational grants to three college students and two university students. In total £2050 has been awarded for the year

The South Creake Charities have money available in an educational trust which is used to award grants to assist students in 'A' level college, apprenticeships or university education, as well as grants to assist younger children with the cost of educational projects or field trips. Individuals can apply in each academic year of their studies. The applicant must be a South Creake resident and the money would go towards their studies.

Applicants are asked to contact the Clerk and request a form to complete in writing, giving details of their course, project or educational trip and how the money would be used with receipts.

A grant of £750 was also awarded to South Creake Tennis Club to help towards the cost of tennis coaching sessions for the children of the village.

The balances at the bank as at January 2022 were South Creake Charities £7,363 and South Creake Dorothy Woodhouse Charity £7,832.

The Trustees meet twice a year and dates of 2022 meetings were set as 1st June and 9th November.

This report was prepared by the Clerk (Sue Hart) on behalf of the Trustees.  
Father Clive Wylie (Chairman), Sara Freakley (Vice-Chairperson, Barbara Allen, Lorna Goodall, Amanda Mendham, Pete Abbey'

## 9. **Burnham Market Area Community Car Scheme**

A report was read on behalf of Mrs D Potter (BMACCS, Co-ordinator).

'During the last financial year, we attended 1,552 medically related appointments. This included 192 for South Creake. During the financial year ending 2019/20 we attended 3,170 and in 2018/19 4,896 – how times changed – with appointments made drivers found and then cancelled – to the pandemic and lockdown.

We are managing with 9 drivers and 2 weekend drivers when they are available and 2 retired will help occasionally in emergencies. We are being asked to attend hospital appointments at weekends. Recently a driver has been taking a passenger to a London hospital. We regularly take a passenger to a clinic in Littleport, apparently used by Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge.

Most of the drivers continue to wear masks and sanitise hands. Some of the passengers prefer to wear a mask too.

With the price of fuel increasing, we have asked if we can charge more than 45p a mile with £5.00 minimum charge – this is the amount the Chancellor has stated for volunteer drivers using own vehicles. The answer is NO – we are asking passengers, if at all possible, to give a little extra. I have advertised for more drivers and had a response from a resident in Burnham Market -he has moved full time into his holiday home. He has helped with a car scheme before.

We still visit surgeries – including Burnham Market, Wells, Docking etc, opticians, physiotherapists, dentists and podiatrists. Because of Covid we are rarely asked to visit care homes and day centres. We do need funding to maintain this service.

John Crombie our chairman has died, we offer his family and many friends our sincere condolences. He will be greatly missed, I am sure by lots of organisations, we will certainly miss his input into BMACCS and his friendship to us all.'

#### 10. Memorial Hall/Pavilion Report

Mr P Hart (Secretary) of the South Creake War Memorial Institute Committee presented a report on behalf of the memorial Pavilion.

'A difficult year with the Covid restrictions in the early months meant a lesser use of Pavilion facilities. It has been good to see that organisations and groups that hire the Pavilion facilities have respected national Covid Guidelines and have now returned in good numbers. Our monthly coffee mornings have been well supported with alternative monthly bingo/quiz nights returning with similar response.

It is pleasing that certain sound problems have been eradicated by the fixing of acoustic panels in the two main meeting rooms.

We have been encouraged that we now have a group of trustees that continue to work hard in providing a beneficial facility for the village and surrounding area.

Our financial situation is satisfactory with at year end Community Account £18,595, Business Account £5,707 and Business Bond of £50,000.

#### 11. Parishioners Questions

A parishioner enquired whether following the March Parish Council meeting, whether her tenancy agreement could be amended to include the agreed second party. It was agreed that the tenancy would be amended and rent requests for 2022 would be circulated imminently.

A parishioner thanked the Parish Council for their assistance with organising a grant to procure 60 Heritage fruit trees.

A parishioner enquired whether any action was to be taken to dismantle the old football pavilion. It was noted that this was to be discussed at the Annual Parish Council meeting to follow.

With no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.35pm.

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Chairman